

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

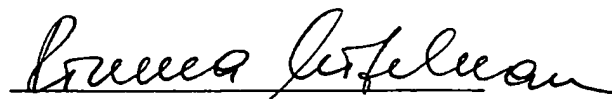
Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beggs et al. (US 6,218,350). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not made a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Beggs differs from the present invention in several elements including, for instance, the absence of any teaching of granulation of the antibody with the alkali metal salt.

In any event, Beggs does not appear to be citable against the present invention under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)/§103 due to the common ownership. See the attached statement.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be allowed to issue.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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STATEMENT OF COMMON OWNERSHIP

The present application, serial number 10/025,237 and U.S. Patent 6,218,350 were, at the time of the invention of application serial number 10/025,237 was made, owned by or subject to obligation of assignment to the same person.